

Question for written answer E-000291/2024

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

Susanna Ceccardi (ID)

Subject: Request for clarification from the EU on the possible suspension of funding to UNRWA for alleged collaboration with the pogrom of 7 October 2023

Serious accusations have emerged from Israel and the UN against the UNRWA regarding the 7 October pogrom against the Israeli population. Numerous teachers employed by the UNRWA are said to have publicly praised the massacre and several UNRWA contract staff reportedly participated in it.

One UNRWA employee allegedly kidnapped an Israeli woman, another removed the body of a murdered soldier, while another took part in the massacre in the Be'eri Kibbutz, where 97 people were killed, including dozens of women, children and elderly people.

In the wake of these accusations, 13 countries, including the United States, Germany, Italy and France, have suspended funding to UNRWA.

The Commission and the High Representative have indicated their grave concern at the allegations of UNRWA staff involvement in terrorist attacks, condemned Hamas's attacks on Israel in the strongest terms, and stated that they will consider further steps based on the outcome of the UN's forthcoming comprehensive investigation into the case.

Given the above, can the High Representative/Vice-President answer the following questions:

1. Pending the outcome of the investigation, and if it is not completed by the end of February when the next disbursement of funding to UNRWA is scheduled, will funding be suspended?
2. How much EU funding has been allocated to UNRWA in total since 7 October 2023?

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